

REMARKS

Claims 2, 5-6, 8, 9, 11-12, 14 and 16-17 are cancelled. Claims 1, 5-6, 10, 13 and 15 are amended. The amendments are supported by the application, including the figures, as originally filed. No new matter is added by the amendments.

Claims 1-8 and 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Kostun (US 6,427,112) or Akihisa et al. (US 6,155,224). Applicants traverse the rejection to the extent that it can be maintained. Claims 2, 5-6, 11-12 and 14 are cancelled.

The present invention provides a compact air intake structure for an off-road vehicle for reducing noise from air drawn into an internal combustion engine. Noise reduction is achieved by a first resonator located in a dead space between an air intake opening and an air cleaner, and a second resonator located in a dead space between the air cleaner and a carburetor (figures 8A and B). Further, the first and second resonators are disposed within a width equal to the width of the air cleaner case (figure 7). The claimed structure provides noise reduction for vehicles with limited layout space.

Kostun discloses a noise reduction system for automobiles. The system includes multiple resonators attached to an inlet port and an air cleaner tube. However, Kostun is not concerned with space limitations that might be imposed on his noise reduction system, and does not disclose the compact structure claimed by the applicants. Kostun does not disclose a dead space in front of an air cleaner and to a side of the connection pipe having a width of the air cleaner case. Figure 8 of Kostun simply shows a sequential relationship of elements of an air intake system. The figure does not provide dimensional information disclosing a dead space or the disposition of the resonators within the dead space. Akihisa et al. disclose a complex noise reduction system. Akihisa et al. includes a figure 14 that is simply a general schematic labeled prior art. Like figure 8 of Kostun, Figure 14 of Akihisa et al. does not disclose an arrangement of elements to provide the compact structure claimed by applicants. Applicants respectfully submit that neither Kostun nor Akihisa et al. anticipate the present invention as claimed and request that the rejection on this ground be withdrawn.

Neither Kostun nor Akihisa et al. teach or suggest the air intake system claimed by applicants. They both teach an air intake structure including resonators for noise reduction. However, neither are concerned with providing a compact air intake structure and neither teach or suggest a structure for a limited layout space that provides effective noise reduction. The structures disclosed by Kostun (figure 8) and Akihisa et al. (figure 14) are a generalized representation showing the relative position of components such as resonators, air cleaner and throttle body. The figures do not provide any teaching respecting a dead space before and after the air cleaner having a width of the air cleaner case, and the figures do not teach or suggest locating resonators within the dead space. The references do not suggest to one of ordinary skill the specific structure being claimed. Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as claimed is not obvious over Kostun or Akihisa et al. and request that the rejection on this ground be withdrawn.

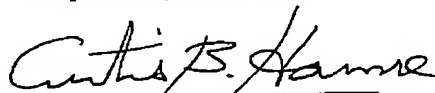
Claims 9 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kostun (US 6,427,112) or Akihisa et al. (US 6,155,224). Applicants traverse the rejection to the extent that it can be maintained. Claims 9 and 17 are cancelled.

The Examiner has asked that the IDS filed on September 13, 2004, be resubmitted. As requested, Applicant is herewith resubmitting the Information Disclosure Statement, as filed on September 13, 2004, with copies of the foreign references attached, with this Amendment.

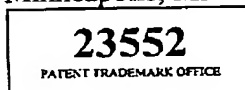
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Dated: January 27, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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